

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 27332 011058Z

14

ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 SCA-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 SY-05 VO-03 INSE-00 DEAE-00 /034 W

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R 011027Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4097

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMCONSUL SONGKHLA

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF TH VS

SUBJECT: INDOCHINESE REFUGEES - NEW BOAT CASES

1. THREE NEW BOATS HAVE ARRIVED IN THAILAND FROM VIET-NAM WITHIN PAST WEEK. THEY INCLUDED ONE BOAT OF 48 PEOPLE WHO TIED UP AT RAYONG, SEPT 25. THIS BOAT WAS ACCOMPANIED PART WAY BY SECOND BOAT CARRYING 20 PERSONS WHICH CAPSIZED IN STORM, RESULTING IN EVERYONE DROWNING. FIRST BOAT, ITSELF OVERCROWDED, WAS UNABLE TO REACH IT IN TIME. SECOND CASE WAS BOATLOAD OF 17 PERSONS, OF WHOM ONE IS AN IMMEDIATE RELATIVE OF AMCIT, WHICH ARRIVED IN SAMUT PRAKAN SEPT 28. THIRD CASE INVOLVED 9 PERSONS WHO ARRIVED SAME LOCATION OCT 1. UNCHR IS IN PROCESS OF INTERVIEWING REFUGEES ON ALL THREE BOATS. RTG IS APPARENTLY PERMITTING ALL TO REMAIN HERE.

2. WITH THESE LATEST ARRIVALS, TOTAL OF 24 BOATS HAVE COME TO THAILAND FROM VIET-NAM SINCE JUNE 30. OF TOTAL OF

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PAGE 02 BANGKO 27332 011058Z

573 PERSONS ON BOARD, 175 HAVE ALREADY BEEN ACCEPTED BY

THIRD COUNTRIES. OF REMAINDER, WE HAVE PRESENTED OR ARE PRESENTING ANOTHER 112 CASES FOR DEPARTMENT'S CONSIDERATION.

3. REG PLANS TO MOVE ALL REFUGEES TIED UP AT SAMUT PRAKAN AND ELSEWHERE IN NORTHERN PART OF GULD OF THAILAND TO ONE LOCATION IN CHANTHABURI PROVINCE NEXT WEEK. AIM IS TO CONCENTRATE THEM IN ONE NORTHERN AND ONE SOUTHERN (SONGKHLA) LOCATION FOR EASE OF PROCESSING AND CONTROL. WE UNDERSTAND THAT A GROUP OF AS MANY AS 70 PERSONS PRESENTLY AT SAMUT PRAKAN, ALREADY REJECTED BY U.S., FRANCE, AND OTHER COUNTRIES, ARE PLANNING TO SAIL SOON TO AUSTRALIA BECAUSE THEY SAY THEY DO NOT WANT TO RESETTLE AND DIE IN THAILAND. UNHCR OFFICIAL IS TRYING TO DISSUADE THEM FROM TAKING THIS ACTION.
BURKE

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